

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CPR-01 SY-05 SCA-01 VO-03 USSS-00 PRS-01 INR-07

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O R 191538Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0991

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UV, EAID

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT BY VOLTAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: (A) STATE 039261 (B) USUN 0600

1. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS FOREING MINISTER, KABORE HAD VISITED EMBASSY TO INQUIRE ABOUT FORMALITIES FOR PRIVATE VISIT TO THE U.S. IN CONNECTION WITH EDUCATIONAL MEETING IN BOSTON. DURING MY CALL ON HIM ON FEBRUARY 11, HE REFERRED VAGUELY TO HIS DESIRE TO VISIT THE U.S. BUT GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THIS WAS TO BE IMMINENT. HE HAS NOW CONFIRMED TO ME BY PHONE THAT HE WILL SPEND A FEW DAYS IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING MARCH 7. HE IS LEAVING OUAGA FEBRUARY 21 FOR OAU MEETING AND WILL INSPECT SEVERAL VOLTAN EMBASSIES BEFORE RETURNING TO UPPER VOLTA. I SUSPECT FUTURE OF SEVERAL VOLTAN AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING YAGUIBOU, MAY BE AT STAKE.

2. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, I HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE POSITIN THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND KABORE'S PREDECESSOR, SAYE ZERBO, WOULD BE A WASTE OF THE SECRETARY'S TIME. THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO KABORE IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW HIM WELL AS YET, HE APPEARS TO ME TO BE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, WELL EDUCATED AND WELL INFORMED. IN CONTRAST TO ZERBO, WHO WAS COMPLETELY LOST IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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AND DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON THE ADVICE OF YOUNG RADICALS IN THE

MINISTRY, I WOULD EXPECT KABORE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OF UPPER VOLTA'S FOREIGN POLICY. AT THIS STAGE, I BELIEVE WE NEED EVERY AFRICAN FRIEND WE CAN GET AND, EVEN IF UPPER VOLTA IS NOT AMONG THE MOST INFLUENTIAL STATES IN AFRICA, IT HAS ITS VOTE AT THE U.N. AND AT THE OAU.

3. ON BALANCE, THEREFORE, I BELIEVE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE KABORE. A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCE HIS THINKING AT A TIME WHEN HE IS PROBABLY WEIGHING IN HIS OWN MIND THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF UPPER VOLTA'S FOREIGN POLICY. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WILL PERMIT A MEETING WITH KABORE. MEANWHILE, I WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT EXACT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT.

4. BIO DATA ON FOREIGN MINISTER KABORE BY SEPTEL.
GRAHAM

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NNN

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